20

PHILLIPS
BUONFANTINO
DUARTE
FAJARDO JR.

TASK FORCE XX
PART 3!

IN SPACE, NO ONE CAN SEE YOU... DIE!

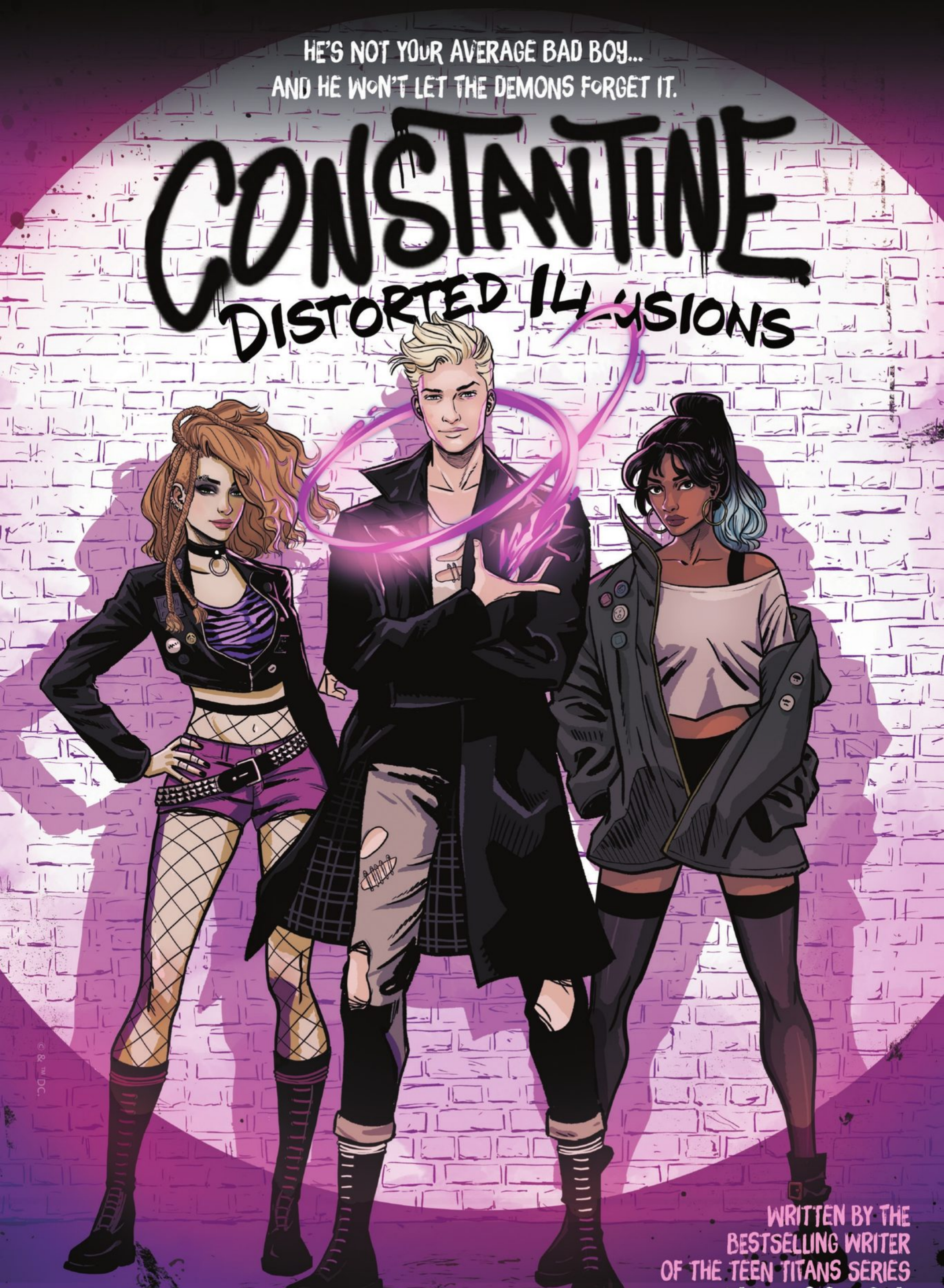
HARLEY QUINN

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

HE'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE BAD BOY...
AND HE WON'T LET THE DEMONS FORGET IT.

CONSTANTINE

DISTORTED ILLUSIONS



WRITTEN BY THE
BESTSELLING WRITER
OF THE TEEN TITANS SERIES
KAMI GARCIA

DRAWN BY
ISAAC GOODHART

A NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL
FOR YOUNG ADULTS
SEPTEMBER

© & ™ DC.

TASK FORCE XX

CHAPTER 3

WRITER STEPHANIE PHILLIPS
ARTISTS GEORGES DUARTE AND SIMONE BUONFANTINO
COLORS ROMULO FAJARDO JR. LETTERS ANDWORLD DESIGN
COVER JONBOY MEYERS VARIANT COVER DERRICK CHEW
RATIO VARIANT COVER JAY ANACLETO AND REX LOKUS
EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY
HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER BY
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

"I SAW IT ALL...

"CITIES DESTROYED...

KRAAAASH

"...HEROES KILLED...

"...MILLIONS OF LIVES LOST..."

"...AND IT ALL FELT SO ***REAL.***

"***ELEMENT-X...*** THE TENTH METAL... A METAL SO PURE IT'S SAID TO BE MADE UP OF ***PURE POSSIBILITY.***"

GET OUT... UNGH...OF MY...HEAD!

"BUT...IT WAS BORN FROM A PLACE OF ***DARKNESS.***

"ONCE THE DARK MULTIVERSE WAS DISCOVERED, THIS METAL CAME TO ***OUR*** EARTH. MOST, OF COURSE, TAKEN BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...

"...SOME AVAILABLE TO THE ***RIGHT*** BUYER AT THE ***RIGHT*** PRICE...

"...I ***THOUGHT*** I COULD CONTROL IT...

"...THAT MAYBE IN TIME I COULD UNDERSTAND IT... EVEN ***USE*** IT FOR SOME GREATER PURPOSE."

HRN!

"BUT I WAS ***WRONG.***

"THE ELEMENT SHOWED ME WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BE IF I KEPT ***ARROGANTLY*** TRYING TO PLAY WITH SOMETHING SO ***FAR*** BEYOND MY GRASP..."

"...MAYBE EVEN BEYOND THE GRASP OF OUR *ENTIRE PLANET.*

"IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE VISION IT PUT INTO MY HEAD ***WASN'T*** REAL...I DON'T KNOW...

"...BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T RISK IT.

"I TRIED DESTROYING IT...BUT NOTHING WORKED.

"I SPENT SO MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT ***SOMEONE*** FINDING AND USING THE ELEMENT...

"...BUT I FORGOT TO CONSIDER THE THREAT OF THE ELEMENT ***ITSELF.***

$*€^!

"SENDING IT TO THE OLD JUSTICE LEAGUE MOON BASE SEEMED LIKE THE NEXT BEST OPTION...SOLITARY, AWAY FROM EARTH, PROTECTED BY OLD J.L.A. DEFENSES..."

"NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS..."

...YOU **CAN'T** LOSE THE ELEMENT.

YOU DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW ***BEFORE*** WE GOT TO THE MOON AND YOUR ***DAMN SCIENCE EXPERIMENT*** TOOK OVER LASHINA'S BODY, LUKE?

SHE COULD BE ***ANYWHERE*** IN THIS BASE BY NOW... MAYBE NOT EVEN ON THE MOON ANYMORE...

LUKE... HON...DON'T MIND ***BENNY THE TIGER.*** HE'S CRANKY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING ON THE RIDE HERE EVEN THOUGH I ***TOLD*** HIM HE'D REGRET IT.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY NICE STORY...LOTS OF TENSION, ENGAGIN' ACTION, A CHARACTER ARC THAT MUST LEAVE YA JUST ***WRACKED*** WITH GUILT...

...YA KNOW, SEEIN' AS HOW YOU ARE ***PERSONALLY*** RESPONSIBLE FOR UNLEASHIN' SOME KIND OF ***APOKOLIPS ALIEN MONSTER*** ON ALL OF US AND MAYBE THE WORLD...

IN HERE.

WE CAN BARRICADE THE DOORS BEHIND US SINCE ***LUKE*** DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY HELP IN THAT DEPARTMENT.

I TOLD YOU... THE ELEMENT DISCONNECTED MY ABILITY TO HACK INTO THE BASE'S SYSTEMS...

...IT SHUT DOWN **ALL** POWER SOURCES.

WITH HOW MUCH THEY SPENT ON THIS PLACE, THERE'RE NO ***GENERATORS?***

"YES, SUPER-RICH-DONOR-PERSON, WE'RE GONNA NEED ONE TOP SECRET HEADQUARTERS WITH MOON-FRONT VIEWS...OH, AND STATUES OF ALL OF US. IN MARBLE PREFERABLY, BUT WE'LL SETTLE FOR GRANITE...BUT WE CAN'T ***POSSIBLY*** GO IN ON A ***GENERATOR!***"

WE NEED A PLAN. I DOUBT THESE DOORS WOULD HAVE STOPPED LASHINA EVEN ***BEFORE*** SHE BECAME INFECTED BY THAT ELEMENT-X STUFF.

IF WE SPLIT INTO ***TWO*** TEAMS, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER MORE GROUND--

DREADBOLT DYING DOESN'T MAKE YOU IN CHARGE, TIGER.

SPLITTING UP JUST MEANS WE GET PICKED OFF EASIER BY WHATEVER THE HELL THAT THING IS INSIDE OF LASHINA.

TEAM, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO KEEP IT TOGETHER SO WE CAN--

I'M IN CHARGE, VERDICT, BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH ANY ACTUAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE.

OH, YOU MEAN YOUR TIME ON THE SUICIDE SQUAD WHEN LASHINA INFILTRATED AND BETRAYED YOUR TEAM, KILLING OFF ONE OF YOUR TEAMMATES?

I READ YOUR FILE, BEN. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES...

...AND, FRANKLY, I'D RATHER TAKE ORDERS FROM THE BIG DEAD GUY.

NO OFFENSE.

GRUNDY...

YOU CAN'T LEAD...THERE'S A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

BUT WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS WHY YOU AGREED TO WORK ON A TEAM WITH LASHINA GIVEN YOUR HISTORY. ARE YOU A MASOCHIST...OR ARE YOU HERE FOR REVENGE?

REGARDLESS... I SAY WE ABANDON THE MISSION BEFORE YOU AND LUKE GET US KILLED, JUST LIKE YOU DID WITH...WHAT WAS HER NAME...? FLORENCE CRAWLEY?

SHNK

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

BEN! SAM! STOP IT!

THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING TOWARDS YOUR--KRSSHHH-- MOVING FAST--

KRAK

I KNOW THE ***BRONZE TIGER*** DOESN'T KILL ANYMORE...

...BUT I DO.

WHAT--?

YOU'RE NOT KILLING ANYONE, SAM, AND WE ***AREN'T*** ABANDONING THIS MISSION.

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T SHOOT A ***GUN*** IN ***SPACE.***

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

THAT'S... ***NOT*** TRUE.

THERE'S LESS OXYGEN. HOW COULD YOU ***POSSIBLY*** FIRE A GUN, HUH?

HARLEY... A GUN DOESN'T REQUIRE OXYGEN TO FIRE. PLUS...WE ARE ***BREATHING*** OXYGEN.

AMMUNITION CONTAINS ITS OWN OXIDIZER THAT TRIGGERS AN EXPLOSION WHEN--

BLAM

GRRARRR!

GRUNDY!

YOU SHOT GRUNDY!

YOU LIED TO KEVIN...YOU FRAMED ME FOR MURDER!

WHAK

HARLEY, STOP!

DO YOU... COPY...? TEAM --KRSSHH-- GOING ON...?

WHAM

I'VE LOST VISUALS...

BLAM BLAM

SPAKT SPAKT SPAKT

...MOVING FAST --KRSSHH-- YOUR LOCATION--

UNGH!

THOOM

...I'M DETECTING SOME KIND--

--KRSSSH--

--POWER SURGE--

HRAH!

--KRSSSH--

WHY IS EVERYONE FIGHTING...?

...DID I MISS SOMETHING?

THIS IS *AWKWARD* BECAUSE LASHINA IS CLEARLY POSSESSED BY SOME KINDA ALIEN MONSTER *GOOP*, RIGHT?

STAY BACK.

WHAT'S YOUR *PROBLEM?*

YOU KNOW LUKE'S RULES...WE *AREN'T* SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER.

YOU ARE NOT LASHINA--

JUST...*WAIT A MINUTE,* SAM.

WE DON'T *KNOW* WHAT HAPPENED...

YEAH... WE DO...

THAT *THING* WENT INSIDE OF HER...AND NOW...

...NOW SHE'S COVERED IN SOME KIND OF ALIEN $%#* AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING NEXT.

ALIEN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S *ME*...I'M COMPLETELY NORMAL--

SOLOMON...

...GRUN--

...HRRRN...

S.G.!

WHAT THE--?

YOU ALL REMEMBER THAT ONE MOVIE WHERE THE ALIEN RUNS AROUND A SPACESHIP KILLIN' PEOPLE BECAUSE THE REST OF THE CAST DIDN'T LISTEN TO THE GIRL WITH THE GUN AND THE CAT?

WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ***THIS*** GIRL WITH A BAT, A WICKED CAFFEINE ADDICTION, AND ONE ***REALLY*** DESPERATE NEED TO PEE RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW THAT WORKS IN SPACE, SO I'M HOLDIN' IT.

AND ***I*** SAY...

...RUN!

YOU DON'T WANT *ME* FOR YOUR ALIEN ASSIMILATION THING...

...I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE ACUTE *INDIGESTION!*

HOW THE HELL DO WE *FIGHT* THIS THING?

MAYBE... MAYBE IT *WANTS* SOMETHING...

I DON'T *CARE* WHAT IT WANTS!

WHAT IT'S *GETTING* IS A BULLET TO THE FACE...

BLAM BLAM

KRAAAK

I HATE TO BE THE *BEARER* OF BAD NEWS, BUT--

...I THINK THE FLOOR'S COLLAPSING!

TOLD YA.

HARLEY...

WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO NOT WARN YA NEXT TIME WE'RE ABOUT TO FALL THROUGH A FLOOR WITH AN ALIEN MONSTER?

STOP. TALKING.

WHERE'D IT GO?

WITH OUR LUCK...? INTO THE CREEPY DEAD FOREST THAT DOESN'T BELONG ON A SECRET MOON BASE...

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN USING IT AS A SOURCE OF OXYGEN.

IT'S PRETTY SMART ACTUALLY...HARDER FOR AN ENEMY TO SABOTAGE A NATURAL SUPPLY OF--

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

...WHAT AM I?

IT CAN TALK?

I READ THE FILES OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...EVERYTHING I COULD FIND IN THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEMS...

...AND I DO NOT EXIST.

NOTHING LIKE ME EXISTS.

WHY DO I EXIST?

PAL, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YA, BUT **NONE** OF US REALLY KNOW **WHY** WE EXIST.

I MEAN... PEOPLE HAVE **TRIED** TO UNDERSTAND IT. ARISTOTLE BELIEVED THE PURPOSE TO LIFE IS HAPPINESS FOR ITS OWN SAKE...WELL, I'M SIMPLIFYIN' THINGS. HE SAID A LOT ABOUT HONOR AND VIRTUE, BUT I GOT BORED.

BUT THEN YOU GET SOMEONE LIKE SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK WHO SAYS THE ONLY SATISFACTORY LIFE IS ONE OF ETERNAL STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE DON'T **WANT** TO **BE** HAPPY...WE JUST WANT TO **PURSUE** HAPPINESS...

KIND OF **DEPRESSIN'** WHEN YA THINK ABOUT THAT ONE...

HARLEY... **WHAT** ARE YOU DOING? DON'T GO **TOWARDS** IT!

NO. IT'S OKAY...I CAN SENSE IT. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE **MOMENTS**...YA KNOW? THE MISUNDERSTOOD MONSTER FINDIN' SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE ITS TRUE **ESSENCE**...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT? YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO **UNDERSTAND** YOU.

YES. I AM **MISUNDERSTOOD.** IF I ONLY HAD SOMEONE TO LOVE ME, I WOULD STOP ALL OF THIS VIOLENCE.

REALLY?

NO, YOU IDIOT.

I'M GOING TO CONSUME ALL OF YOU AND THEN DO THE SAME TO EVERY SINGLE PERSON ON EARTH.

WELL... THAT *SUCKS.*

THAT WAS *OUR* MOMENT, YOU BIG, STUPID MONSTER!

WE COULD HAVE HAD A GREAT LIFE TOGETHER AND, LET ME TELL *YOU*...I'M THE BEST CLOWN-THEMED THERAPIST-SLASH-VIGILANTE YOU'RE *EVER* GONNA MEET!

GET DOWN!

WHAK

HEY!

EVERYONE... BEHIND ME!

WE NEED A *NEW* PLAN... SINCE *FAY WRAY* OVER HERE COULDN'T *BEFRIEND* THE GIANT MONSTER MADE FROM AN *UNSTABLE* APOKOLIPTAN ELEMENT!

IT WORKS IN *ALL* THE MOVIES...

WHAK

I CAN'T... HOLD IT...

WHAK

IT'S BREAKING THROUGH!

KRAK

FROST!

I DON'T KNOW C.P.R. BUT I'LL DO IT IF I GOTTA!

...UNGH...

CAITLIN...? WHAT DID YOU--?

SKREEEEE!

$*€#... MY HEAD...

ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH... I JUST...I NEED A MINUTE...

POWER'S BACK.

WHY WOULD THAT *THING* WANT THE POWER BACK ON?

AND WOULD *YOU* MIND SHARING WITH THE CLASS WHAT THE HELL YOU DID TO IT?

WHY DIDN'T IT DO... *YOU KNOW...?* WHATEVER IT DID TO LASHINA AND GRUNDY?

SHE SAID TO GIVE HER A MINUTE, BEN.

IT'S OKAY, SAM. YOU ALL DESERVE TO KNOW...

I ALWAYS KNEW I COULD ABSORB HEAT AND ENERGY, BUT I NEVER KNEW WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO ANOTHER PERSON...OR *BEING*... UNTIL AMANDA WALLER ASKED ME TO DO IT TO *SUPERMAN.*

I CAN DRAIN THE *LIFE FORCE* FROM ANYONE OR ANY*THING* I AM IN PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH.

SO, YOU STARTED **DRAINING** THAT CREATURE'S **LIFE FORCE** AND IT FLED.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU **HAD** TAKEN ITS LIFE FORCE?

I'M...NOT SURE. WITH SUPERMAN I GAINED STRENGTH...BUT I DON'T KNOW WITH THAT THING.

TEAM?

TEAM, DO YOU COPY?

WE'RE HERE, LUKE.

DAMMIT... I'VE BEEN TRYING EVERY FREQUENCY TO REACH YOU. WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?

IT'S A LONG STORY. THE CREATURE NOW HAS LASHINA **AND** GRUNDY, BUT I THINK IT'S STILL IN THE BASE. CAN YOU TRACK IT?

WORKING ON IT...IT LOOKS LIKE THE POWER WAS RESTORED, WHICH MAKES MY JOB **A LOT** EASIER...I THINK IT'S--

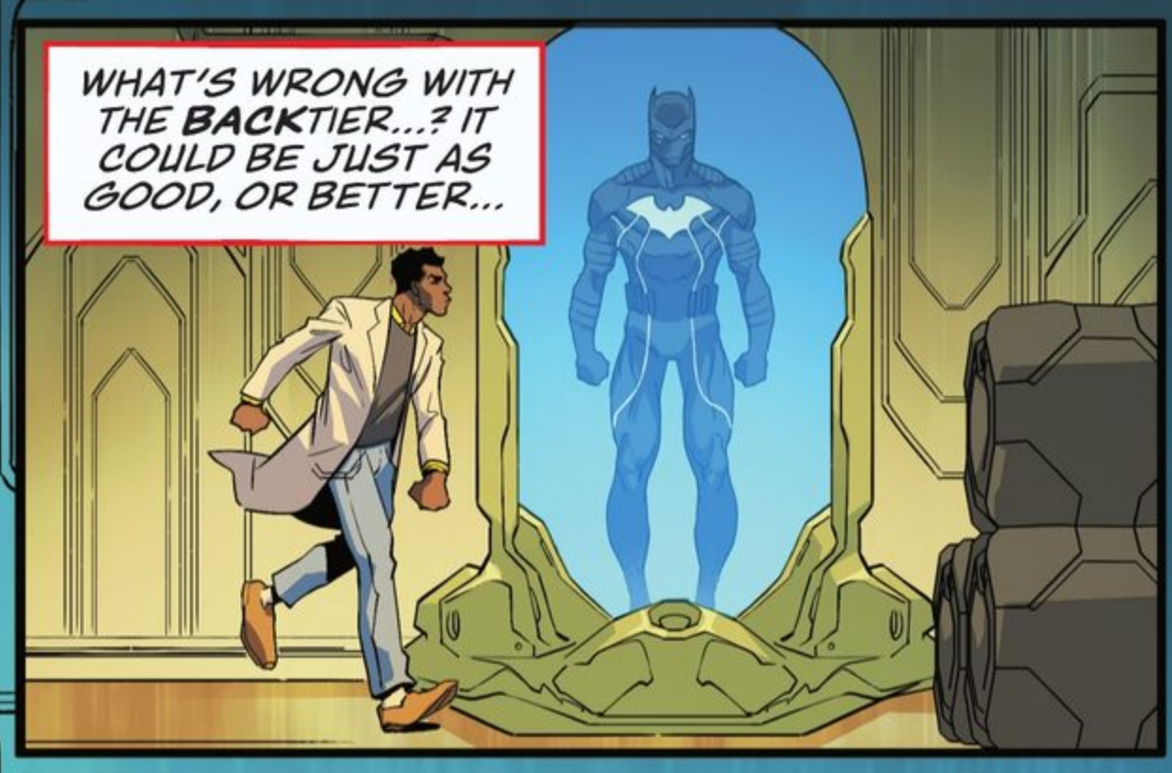
%$&^...IT'S IN THE **TRANSPORTER ROOM** AND IT JUST BROUGHT THE SYSTEM BACK ONLINE...

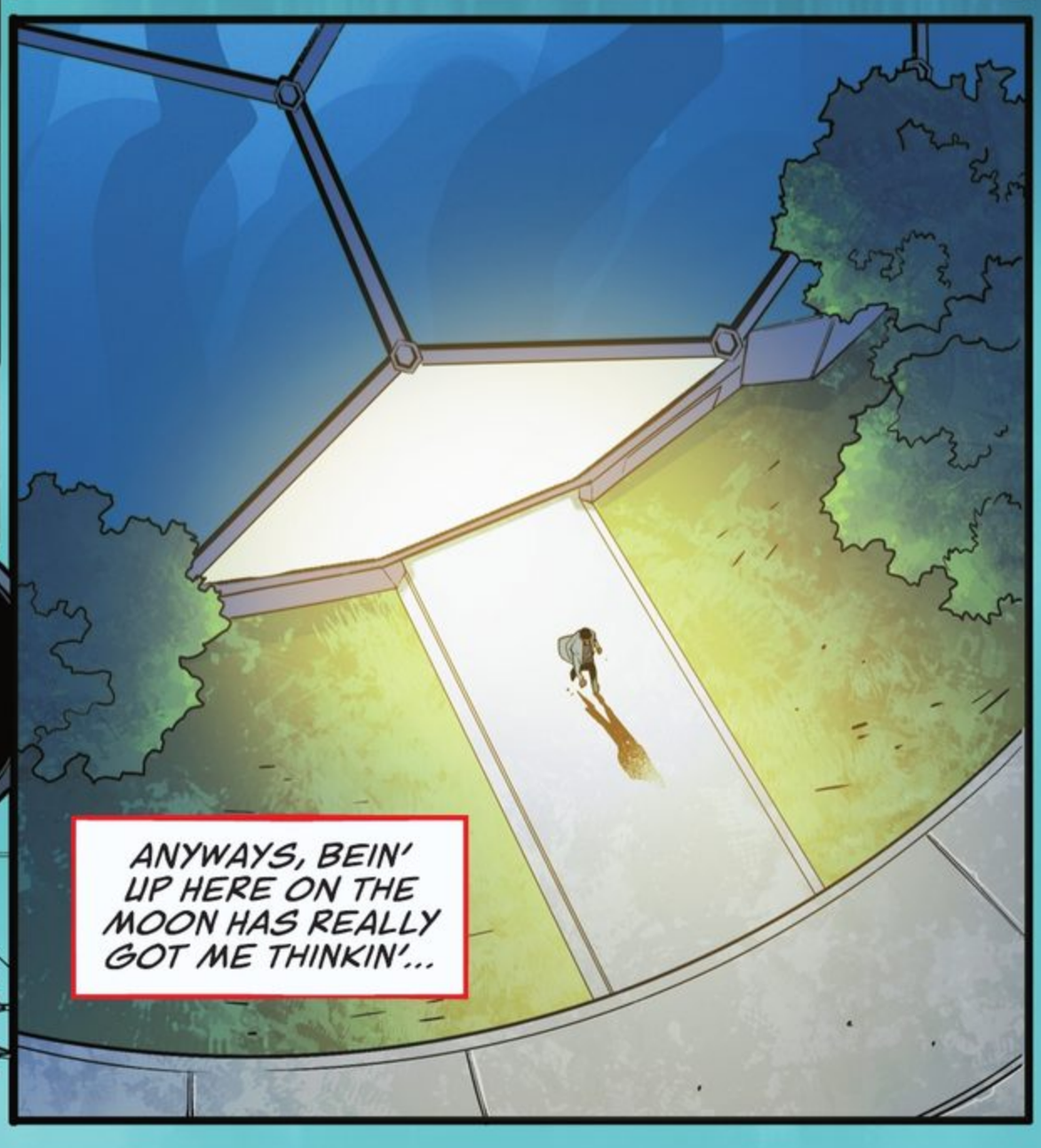
...IT'S TRANSPORTING TO EARTH!

THIS PLACE HAS TRANSPORTERS TO AND FROM EARTH BUT NOT A %$#@*&! TOILET?

CLOWN'S LOG: STARDATE 2022. I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHY EVERYONE'S SO FASCINATED BY THE FINAL **FRONT**IER...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE **BACK**TIER...? IT COULD BE JUST AS GOOD, OR BETTER...





...THINKIN' ABOUT HOW THE BEST SLICE OF PIZZA I'VE EVER HAD IS SOMETHIN' LIKE 238,900 MILES AWAY...

WHAT THE--?

...THINKIN' ABOUT **LEGACY**...

$*€^!

LIKE, IF SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE HAPPENS, SUCH AS A GIANT MONSTER DEVOURING YOU INSIDE AN OLD J.L.A. MOON BASE...

LUKE FOX...

...WHAT DO YOU LEAVE **BEHIND?**

...THIS WILL BE A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT EASIER IF YOU JUST COME WITH US QUIETLY, SON.

I MEAN, NO ONE EVER SAYS, "GOSH, THAT DR. FRANKENSTEIN WAS SUCH A GOOD **DANCER**..."

YOU'RE GONNA BE GOING AWAY FOR A LONG--

...WE **NEVER** TALK ABOUT FRANKENSTEIN'S STAMP COLLECTION...

BLAM

HRN!

BLAM

NOPE...YOU CREATE **ONE** TERRIFYING AND SCIENTIFICALLY PROGRESSIVE MONSTER THAT TERRORIZES AN ENTIRE VILLAGE AND BECOMES AN ALLEGORY ABOUT THE DANGERS OF TRYING TO MANIPULATE NATURE...

WH-- WHAT--?

...AND, **BOOM**, YOU'RE JUST THE **MONSTER** GUY.

HELLO, FATHER.

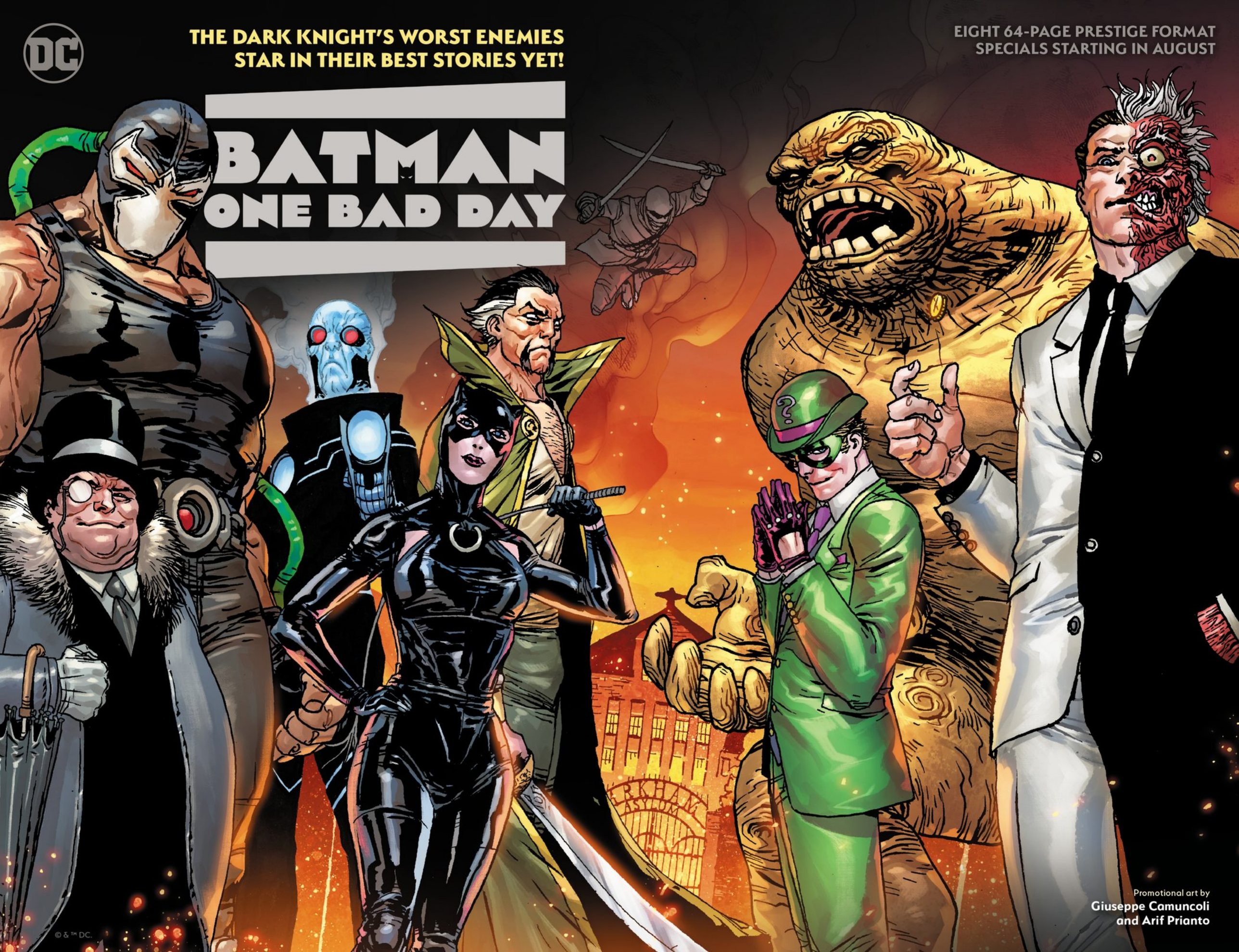
I WONDER IF LUKE'S EVER READ FRANKENSTEIN. FOR NO **REAL** REASON...IT'S JUST A GOOD STORY.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE DARK KNIGHT'S WORST ENEMIES
STAR IN THEIR BEST STORIES YET!

BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY

EIGHT 64-PAGE PRESTIGE FORMAT
SPECIALS STARTING IN AUGUST



© & ™ DC.

Promotional art by
Giuseppe Camuncoli
and Arif Prianto

COMICS' TOP TALENTS TELL DEFINITIVE TALES OF THE GREATEST ROGUES GALLERY IN POP CULTURE

Batman - One Bad Day: The Riddler
Tom King
Mitch Gerads
AUGUST

Batman - One Bad Day: Two-Face
Mariko Tamaki
Javier Fernandez
SEPTEMBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Penguin
John Ridley
Giuseppe Camuncoli
OCTOBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Mr. Freeze
Gerry Duggan
Matteo Scalera
NOVEMBER

BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY

Batman - One Bad Day: Catwoman
G. Willow Wilson
Jamie McKelvie
DECEMBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Bane
Joshua Williamson
Howard Porter
JANUARY

Batman - One Bad Day: Clayface
Collin Kelly & Jackson Lanzing
Xermánico
FEBRUARY

Batman - One Bad Day: Ra's al Ghul
Tom Taylor
Ivan Reis
MARCH

Batman - One Bad Day: Catwoman #1

By G. Willow Wilson and Jamie McKelvie

ON SALE IN DECEMBER

A brooch Selina Kyle's mother once pawned for pennies is now part of a high-bid auction! The stakes are personal, and Catwoman will steal it back at any cost.

Batman - One Bad Day: Bane #1

By Joshua Williamson and Howard Porter

ON SALE IN JANUARY

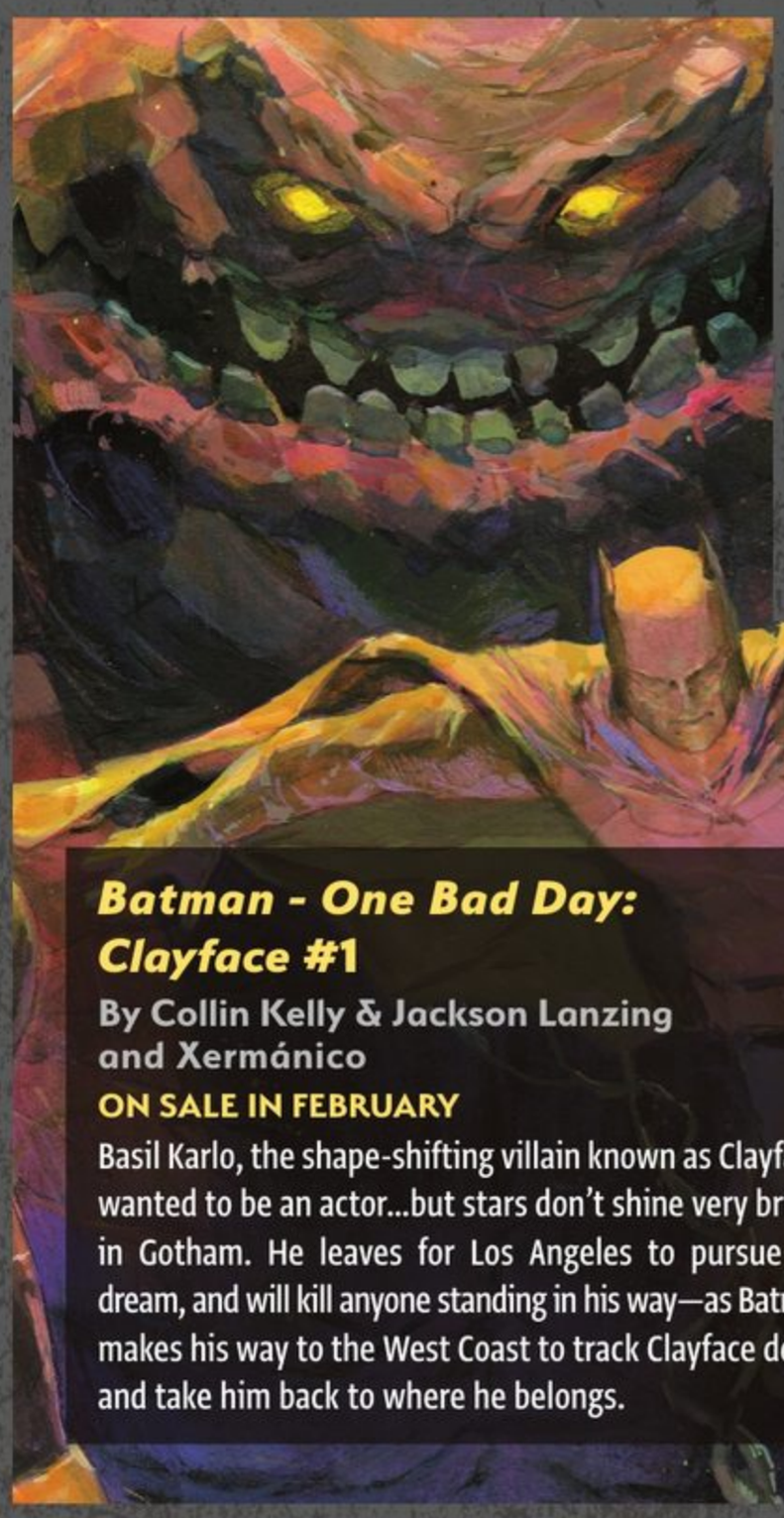
Decades after Bane broke the Bat, he's become a successful wrestler—but the years have taken their toll. When Bane learns a doctor is re-manufacturing the drug Venom, he'll journey to kill the last of the suppliers. Witness how one substance can ruin someone's past, present, and future.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN ONE BAD DAY

DC's top writers and artists tell definitive and all-new tales of Gotham City's deadliest rogues in *Batman - One Bad Day*: eight standalone, 64-page, one-shot Prestige format comics, starring the Dark Knight's worst enemies. Here's a look at the second half of the series.

DON'T MISS *BATMAN - ONE BAD DAY*, STARTING WITH *THE RIDDLER* IN AUGUST!



Batman - One Bad Day: Clayface #1

By Collin Kelly & Jackson Lanzing and Xermánico

ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

Basil Karlo, the shape-shifting villain known as Clayface, wanted to be an actor...but stars don't shine very bright in Gotham. He leaves for Los Angeles to pursue his dream, and will kill anyone standing in his way—as Batman makes his way to the West Coast to track Clayface down and take him back to where he belongs.

Batman - One Bad Day: Ra's al Ghul #1

By Tom Taylor and Ivan Reis

ON SALE IN MARCH

All Ra's al Ghul wants to do is save the world from us, save us from ourselves. And Batman constantly stands in the way of a better world. But take Batman out of the equation, even briefly: Would Ra's succeed? Could he follow through on every promise and threat he's ever made? And if he did...would Batman let it stand when he returned to take it all in?

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP – General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP – Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP – Revenue

HARLEY QUINN 20. October, 2022. Published monthly by DC Comics, 100 S. California Street, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2022 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/go/ratings.

ZONE